



# City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police

## Press Release

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** 03/04/2016

**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** DUI CHECKPOINT AND SATURATION PATROLS

The Ridgecrest Police Department will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License checkpoint at an undisclosed location within the city limits along with a special DUI Roving Saturation Patrol.

- DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint is set for 03/04/16, from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm.
- Roving DUI Saturation Patrols will be deploying on 03/04/16 from 11:00 pm to 3:00 am.

In California, this deadly crime led to 802 deaths because someone failed to designate a sober driver. Alcohol and drug-impaired deaths still make up the largest category of overall vehicle fatalities in 2012 with 29 percent of all deaths caused by a drunk driver. A DUI checkpoint is a proven effective method to lower these numbers.

During both the checkpoint and saturation patrols, officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment with officers checking drivers for proper licensing delaying motorists only momentarily. Specially trained officers may be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving, which now accounts for a growing number of impaired driving crashes.

Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol. Everyone should be mindful that if you're taking medication – whether prescription or over-the-counter – drinking even small amounts of alcohol can greatly intensify the impairment affects.

The Ridgecrest Police Department reminds everyone that they can assist in preventing this crime from ever occurring. If you are planning a gathering or celebration with alcohol included, or if you are out on the town, plan ahead and designate a non-drinking sober driver. A DUI and drug-impaired arrest can costs up to \$10,000 or even more, including time in jail, the loss of your drivers license and high insurance rates.

These enforcement efforts are funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Remember, everyone is encouraged to help keep our roadways safe; Report Drunk Drivers – Call 911!

**Prepared By: Sgt. Justin Dampier**

**RONALD N. STRAND - Chief of Police**  
**Tuesday, March 01, 2016 17:17**